

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A pumped helium circuit comprising:

a compressor ~~[[14]]~~ with a high pressure port ~~[[16]]~~ and a low pressure port ~~(18)~~ each which are connected to a supplied equipment ~~(61,63,65,67)~~ to respectively supply compressed helium to, and receive compressed helium from, the supplied equipment;

a pressure relief valve ~~[[12]]~~ operable to link the high pressure port to the low pressure port in response to a predetermined pressure differential;

a non-return valve ~~[[13]]~~ located between a low pressure side of the pressure relief valve and the supplied equipment; and

means for preventing oil carry-over from the compressor to the supplied equipment; [[.]]

wherein ~~characterised in that~~ said means comprises means for preventing oil leaving the low pressure port and travelling towards the supplied equipment.

Claim 2. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The pumped helium circuit according to claim 1, wherein said means for preventing oil carryover comprises an oil trap located in the circuit between the low pressure port and the supplied equipment.

Claim 3. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The pumped helium circuit according to claim 1, wherein said means for preventing oil carryover comprises an oil adsorber located in the circuit between the low pressure port and the supplied equipment.

Claim 4. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The pumped helium circuit according to claim 1, wherein said means for preventing oil carryover comprises a gas reservoir located in the circuit between the low pressure port and the supplied equipment.

Claim 5. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The pumped helium circuit according to claim 1, wherein said means for preventing oil carryover comprises a combined gas reservoir and oil adsorber located in the circuit between the low pressure port and the supplied equipment.

Claim 6. (Currently Amended) A pumped helium circuit according to claim 1, wherein said means for preventing oil carryover comprises a pressure actuated switch in the circuit between the low pressure part and the supplied equipment, said switch being operable to stop operation of the compressor in response to [[a]] gas pressure at the low pressure port falling below a predetermined value, ~~the predetermined value being~~ which is less than [[the]] a minimum pressure at the low pressure port during normal operation.

Claim 7. (Currently Amended) A pumped helium circuit comprising:

a compressor [[(14)]] with a high pressure port [[(16)]] and a low pressure port ~~(18)~~ each which are connected to a supplied equipment ~~(61,63,65,67)~~ to respectively supply compressed helium to, and receive compressed helium from, the supplied equipment; and

a pressure relief valve ~~[[12]]~~ operable to return compressed helium from the high pressure port to the compressor in response to a predetermined pressure differential;

wherein ~~characterised in that~~ the pressure relief valve is connected between the high pressure port and the compressor, independently of the low pressure port.

Claim 8. (Currently Amended) A method for preventing oil carry-over from a helium compressor ~~[[14]]~~ to a supplied equipment, said method ~~(63, 67, 61, 65)~~ comprising: ~~the steps of~~

~~[[1]]~~ supplying compressed helium through a high pressure port ~~[[16]]~~ to the supplied equipment;

~~[[1]]~~ receiving compressed helium through a low pressure port (18) from the supplied equipment; and

[[-]] operating a bypass relief valve [[(12)]] in response to a differential pressure exceeding a predetermined value, thereby allowing oil-laden compressed helium to flow from the high pressure port to the compressor; [[,]]

wherein ~~characterised in that~~ the method further comprises the step of preventing oil from [[the]] oil-laden compressed helium from travelling from the low pressure port to the supplied equipment.